



# TASMANIAN FIRSTS, INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS

by

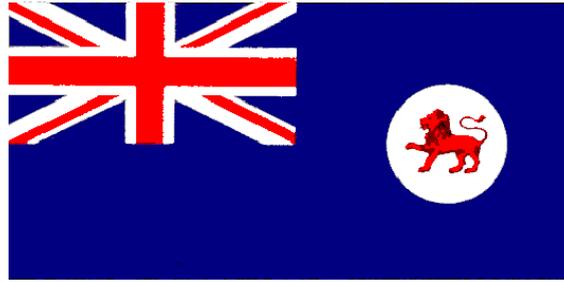
Reg. A. Watson

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**Please note:** if you have an authentic and documented Tasmanian first, innovation or invention and wish to have it added to the website contact Reg Watson [reg@regwason.com](mailto:reg@regwason.com) or [regawatson@gmail.com](mailto:regawatson@gmail.com)

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Amusingly, (and hopefully affectionately) mainlanders refer to their Tasmanian cousins as having *'two heads'*. This is because we are a fairly closely-knit society where everyone, if not knowing each other, knows *'of them'*. And if you are an old Tasmanian family, chances are you are related in some-way to half the population – or so it seems. The old saying is, *"two heads are better than one"*.

Early Governor, William Denison had little regard for Tasmanians or as was then known as Van Demonians when he wrote to Early Grey (August 15<sup>th</sup> 1848), "Tasmanians are crude, self indulgent and impressed only with money – then when one of us gets money, the others were filled with jealousy"

But worse was said by Sir Charles Dilke when visiting our island in 1869. He wrote of us Tasmanians: "The curse of the country was their lotus eating indolences, dreaming their lives away in drowsiness." That from his book, "Greater Britain" which he describes in us "no lack of savagery". Fortunately Tasmanian J.D.Bafle MLC was able to tear this work of fiction into shreds. (Tasmanian Times 10/March 1870 P.3) But I would not worry too much about Charles, his career was racked by controversy.

Tasmanians per head of population for Australia must lead the nation in being innovative and inventive, some of which has affected the world. Innovations that the nation (and world) now takes for granted, have a Tasmanian origin. Many, many lives have been saved because of a Tasmanian and we start my assertions with perhaps the major one...The Black Box.

A scientist, Dr David Warren, who grew up in Tasmania, invented the Black Box, the recording instrument that contains all the information about an aircraft's flight. David was son of the popular Rev. Hubert (Bert) Warren <sup>1</sup>, Anglican priest who served in Tasmania. It is now mandatory for commercial airlines to carry the 'box'; indeed Australia was the first country to make it so in 1961.



Reg "The Black Box – Tasmanian legacy".

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Hubert Warren went down in the airline Miss Hobart, October 19<sup>th</sup> 1934

Amazingly, however, Australian authorities were in favour of an inferior American one and rejected Dr Warren's original invention. Dr Warren, who was actually a Chemist, had lost his father in a plane crash on the Miss Hobart aircraft, travelling from Launceston to Melbourne in 1934\*.



The loss of the British-built Comet in 1947 also had an effect on the industry recognising that a device should be contained on the craft to determine the cause of accident. In the end it was the British who saw merit in Dr Warren's invention. He states, "*Australia fumbled and lost every opportunity to get in at the beginning of the world-wide business.*" The new industry is now worth millions and the 'box' plays a prominent role in aviation safety.

Another 'Black Box' developed by Tasmanians was one which enables recorded promotional announcements to play automatically, using a retail's store's existing amplifier system. This was innovated by Creative Workshop Pty Ltd in the early 1990s and allowed the system to work independently of the store's existing background music.

Miss Hobart's sister airliner, Miss Launceston, was the first in Australia to have two-way aircraft radio installed in 1934.

Australia's first caravan, built in 1927 by the Bailey family, farmers from Deloraine, was towed by a 1922 Model T Ford.

Tasmania has the highest level of boat ownership, which makes sense, being an island.

The Iron Pot Lighthouse designed by renowned architect, John Lee-Archer is the country's oldest existing tower lighthouse, built in 1832.

The legal firm established in Hobart in 1824, Butler, McIntyre & Butler, is possibly the oldest continuous legal identity in Australia.

On the subject of recordings, we should honour Eric Watterworth, who invented the automatic method of changing a record on the gramophone. This revolutionised the enjoyment of recorded sound. The late Eric some years ago stated to this author that when as a teen in the 1920s his self-playing, self-stopping and self-repeating apparatus was first displayed to a distinguished audience, which included the Premier of Tasmania and the Lord Mayor of Hobart. In 1927 the young Eric and his father, went to Sydney to present his invention. There was an enthusiastic response and its first public display was at the Royal

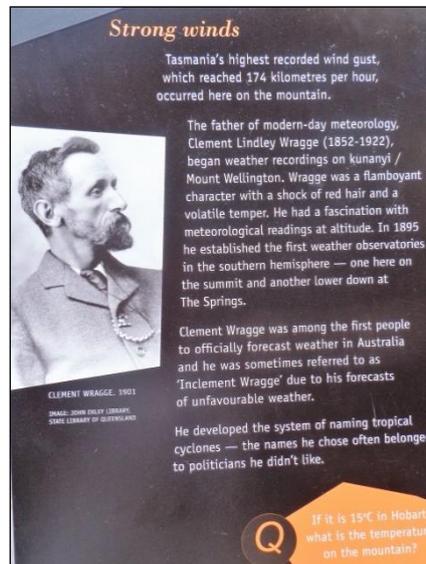
Easter Sydney Show. It received international acclaim and the following year they went to the USA. Eric revealed the reason behind his invention: *“I was annoyed of having to get up and down all the time to change the record”*.

While on communications, a local astronomer from Campbell Town, Alfred Barrett Biggs, invented the first ever phone in Australia. Biggs, born in London in 1825, was also headmaster of the local school and constructed three phones from Huon Pine. By the late 1870s his invention and development was well known. He placed a microphone alongside the telephone and on tapping the parchment lightly; booming sounds were heard at the other end. He then decided to experiment over a longer range and conducted brief conversations between Launceston and the Campbell Town Railway Station. It is claimed that this was the first telephone conversation in Australia, but sadly the exact date of the experiment in 1877 is not recorded. In 1874, with well-known astronomer, Dr. William Valentine, he prepared the equipment for the team of US astronomers who observed the transit of Venus from Campbell Town. Biggs made the lenses for his telescope and ended up as Government Astronomer.

The first trunk call in the nation was made on the December 1, 1888 when the Hobart Post Office called the Bush Inn at New Norfolk. Tasmania led the way! (The Mercury Dec 1. 1939). New Norfolk made history again in 1939 when the first Tasmanian overseas call to London was made from its Post Office. All this of course followed the telegraph when the first telegraph ever sent in Tasmania was on the 8th July 1857. . Mr. E.S. Chapman, a journalist who went under the pseudonym, ‘*Augur*’ who had connections with the newspaper *Australasian*, was to send the message on behalf of the first-ever editor and founder of The Mercury newspaper, Mr Davies. Not bad, after just five years of cessation of convict transportation and one year after the granting of Responsible Government and name change from Van Diemen’s Land to Tasmania.

Further on telephones: what is believed to be the first private telephone call from Hobart to England a distance of 12,500 miles was made by Frederick William Medhurst on Saturday August 22, 1936. The call was made to his ninety-years-old mother Helen, who lived in Chobham England. Frederick who was born in 1867 and came to Australia in 1891 was also involved in another ‘firsts’ with colleagues from the Post Master General’s Department, William Philpot Hallam and Frank Prosser Bowden in July 1901 during the visit to Hobart of the Duke and Duchess of York. A message was sent by the three to the warship the St George accompany the Royal Yacht, Ophir, with the words, “Tasmania greets the Royal Yacht Ophir and her consorts.” The signals received were perfect. This was the first communication with a shore station in the southern hemisphere. The message was sent from Blinking Point, Sandy Bay. When the ships were leaving, a message was sent “Good-bye and bon voyage.” The Duchess replied with “thank you.” (Mercury 25<sup>th</sup> September 1936. P.5)

The fiery tempered Clement Lindley Wragge was the first to set up weather observations posts in the southern hemisphere, one on the summit of Mt Wellington and the other at the Springs, lower Mt. Wellington in 1895.



The Wragge story located in the Observatory, Mount Wellington

It was a Tasmanian who started the supermarket Coles chain. George Coles opened his first shop at Wilmot, near Devonport. (1910-21). He then went on to Melbourne and continued his enterprise there. QANTAS was started by a Launceston man, Hudson-Fysh, who was a Gallipoli survivor then flew during WWI as a combat pilot. Tasmania is home to the oldest continuous brewery with Cascade commencing in 1824.



Dr Pugh Statue, Princess Park, Launceston

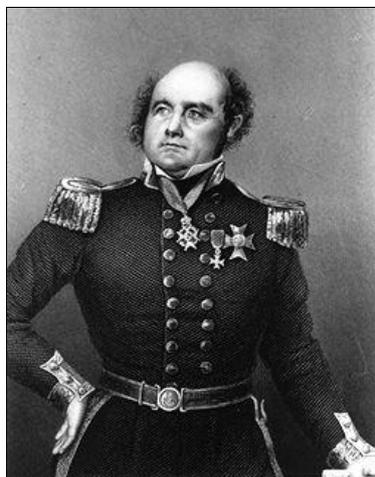
On medical matters the world's first ever infant respirator, better known as a Humidicrib was developed by Tasmania's gynaecologist, Dr William McIntyre in 1941 at Launceston. Dr Jim Frost developed an early baby monitor in the fight against sudden infant death syndrome, while it was Dr William Pugh from Launceston who in 1847 performed the first operation in the southern hemisphere with the use of ether as an anaesthetic. The patient was a young female who for upwards of two years had been suffering from a tumour of the lower jaw.

According to The Examiner newspaper at the time, the young girl walked home shortly afterwards. Dr Pugh's next operation using ether was on a man with cataracts of both eyes. The newspaper reported "*The patient remained in a state of insensibility for a few minutes, but after taking some wine and water awoke to consciousness.*" To the Launcestonians regret, Dr Pugh and his wife left the city to practise in Melbourne, where he died in 1897. The first deep therapy unit installed at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) was the first in the southern hemisphere in 1937. One of the first pancreatic transplant operations in the world was carried out at the LGH.

Tasmania was the first State (and maybe the world) in Australia to have compulsory mass chest X-Rays to combat Tuberculosis, besides screening programmes for the detection of early cancers in the uterus. Let us not forget the *Alexander Technique*, formulated by Wynyard born Frederick Alexander (1869-1955), which has improved health through posture and well being world-wide.

Moving to the scientific world; while not born in Tasmania, astronomer, Grote Reber came to the State in the 1950s because of our unique location at high magnetic latitude in the southern hemisphere. He has been called "*the father of radio astronomy*" as he was the first person to build a 'big dish' antenna for the purpose of mapping the sky at radio frequencies. The museum just off the Richmond Road, Cambridge exhibits Reber's telescopes and is open to the public by arrangement.

We were the first colony to adopt a Constitution (1856), drawn up by, later to be Premier. Thomas G. Gregson, and we were the first State to proclaim its own State Flag (1975). The first Session of the Federal Council of Australia to promote federation was held in Tasmania in 1886. In 1837 Sir John Franklin passed Australia's first laws in regards to cruelty to animals.



Sir John Franklin

The rising sun used in Australia such as the emblem on our army's slouch hat was first designed and used in Tasmania. It appeared on the transport (convict) cessation medallion produced in 1853, as with the early Australian Coat of Arms, which is also on the medallion.

Sadly, Tasmania can claim to be home to one of the worse civilian aviation disasters in Australia's history when on March 10, 1946 a DC3 aircraft of the ANA fleet plunged into the waters off Seven Mile Beach killing all 25 passengers and crew.

On military matters, we were the first State to organise an annual Boer War Commemorative Day (2002).



Boer War Day Hobart

We were the first State in Australia to erect a memorial to World War I. The RSL Launceston is the oldest one in the nation. The highest decorated soldier in the British Empire is Colonel Harry Murray (WWI) from Evandale. The sad distinction of being one of the first Australians believed to be killed at Gallipoli was a Tasmanian, Harry Hodgman and the last man to leave was a Tasmanian, Captain Charles Littler. Captain Keith Heritage from Launceston is credited as being the first Australian to enlist after war was declared on August 4 1914. The first reported Australian to be killed in World War II, was a Tasmanian, Flying Officer, John Tulloch Sadler from the north west coast. Keith Heritage, Longford born, could claim as being the first Australian to volunteer for service in the AIF, WWI. He did KIA 26<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Tasmania has been the only state to have a RAN vessel named after it. The vessel *Tasmania* was presented to the RAN in 1919, but was scuttled in the mid 1930s. Another Tasmanian soldier, highly decorated from WWI including the Legion of Honour (French) was Louis Charles Bernacchi who had already made history in 1899 when as a physicist he was the first Australian to set foot on Antarctic ice. Pilot Officer, Ron Betts from Launceston was the first RAAF personnel to die in Vietnam March 20<sup>th</sup> 1971.



Ron Betts plaque, Anzac Park, Lindisfarne

Tasmanian Edward (Teddy) Sheean was the first Australian to be given a Victoria Cross for the Royal Australian Navy.



On the matter of ice, it was Tasmanian Malcolm Wallhead who invented the Igloo Satellite or “apple hut”, suitable to live in freezing conditions and now used extensively for accommodation in Antarctica. There is also a claim that the first ever non-government produced Antarctic magazine focussing on business activities was produced and edited by Malcolm and wife Anthea. Named “Ice-Breaker” it circulated from 1997 until 2012.

Another Tasmanian innovation is from Brian Stafford with his patented, Wheelie Bin Handling System, which is an Australia first. The trolley is stopped about a foot before the bin handle bar (s) then tilted forward until the hooks on the trolley shafts are under the bin handle bars. By moving the trolley a little further, applying the brakes and pulling backwards the trolley will load the bin or bins. Release the brake and away you go.

General Sir John Gellibrand, the highest ranking Tasmanian in World War One was the originator of what was to become Legacy, an Australian wide charity organisation.

Of the 101 Victorian Crosses awarded to Australians, fifteen have been awarded to Tasmanians, thus making the percentage fourteen per cent, three times higher than our relative population. Bisdee and Wylly, both Tasmanians, who were recipients of the VC during The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) while not the first Australian recipients were the first **Australian-born** recipients.

The mother of well known WWI historian, Charles Edwin Bean was a Tasmanian, Lucy Madeline Butler who married Edwin Bean. Edwin moved to Tasmania and died in 1922 and was buried in Queenborough, Sandy Bay. Later his remains were moved to Cornelian Bay where he lies with wife Lucy and daughter Madeline Jessup.



The Bean grave at Cornelian Bay

The commander of the Australian forces during the battle of Long Tan during the Vietnam War was a Tasmanian from Glenorchy, Harry Smith.



John Hutton Bisdee being awarded his Victoria Cross

We are the only State which honours annually the Battle of Britain on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The oldest continuous military establishment is in Hobart, Anglesea Barracks, founded by Governor Lachlan Macquarie, 9<sup>th</sup> December 1811.



Entrance Anglesea Barracks (Reg Watson photo)

Tasmania has the only memorial in the nation to the Maori Wars of the 1840s located at Anglesea Barracks dedicated to the 99<sup>th</sup> Foot who were stationed there.

99<sup>th</sup> Foot memorial

Tasmania military was the first of the Australian Colonies to receive some long 32-pounder guns which arrived in Hobart with their cast-iron carriages etc. on the "*Harbinger*" - 22nd. January 1842, and the "*Sydney*", 28th. January 1842. Pictured below.



We were the first to legalise casinos (1968) while the year previously (1967) we were the first in Australia to abolish 6 o'clock closing. Back in 1895 Tasmania attracted a resident who stayed off State bankruptcy. In that year, George Adams arrived after having his lottery enterprises banned on the mainland colonies. Our Premier, Edward Braddon, invited him to set up his business in Tasmania, thus becoming the first State in federated Australia to legalise lotteries. Adams operated his nation-wide business from Hobart and by the 1930s the government's share amounted to almost 50 per cent of its revenue. Sadly, in 1954 without reference to the then Premier Cosgrove, his fellow Labour Victorian colleagues enticed the enterprise to that State. By then, the amiable and kind Adams had long since died.



Reg at Adam's gravesite, Cornelian Bay

The Theatre Royal in Campbell Street is the oldest continuous operating theatre in Australia. (1837).



Arthur Cruttenden Mace

Incidentally it was Arthur Cruttenden Mace, Tasmanian born and from Buckland, who was with Howard Carter when he re-discovered Tutankhamen's tomb in 1923 and was there when he entered it for the first time. Mace was the official photographer for the event.

Tasmania was the first to have a trout hatchery at Salmon Ponds, Plenty and the first in Australia to introduce daylight saving. Tasmania has the oldest golf club (Bothwell- 1839) and was the first to play lawn bowls (1846). Hobart was the first Royal Tennis Club in Australia (1875) and the Royal Society of Tasmania (then Van Diemen's Land) was the first Royal Society to be established in the world outside the United Kingdom in 1843 by Sir John Eardley-Wilmot.

Wood Chopping had its beginnings in Ulverstone in 1870. Our crayfish are reputed to be the biggest in the world.

The Risdon Punt (from east Risdon to the western side later to where the E.Z. Company was located), was the oldest continuous ferry service in Australia from 1836-1978, one hundred and forty two years.



Risdon Punt in the early 1930s

An early operator of the punt was Thomas Jennings (1824-1890) of 32 stone and with a 68 inch chest, reputed to be the biggest man in Australia and newspapers at the time said, perhaps the world.

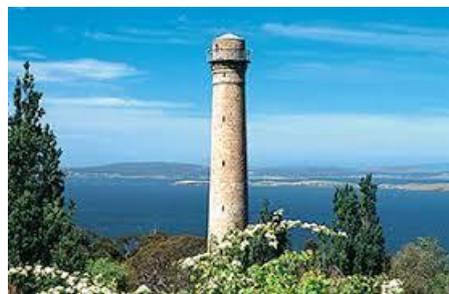


Thomas Jennings

The first steam river ferry in Australia, the “Surprise” sailed on the River Derwent in 1832.

Interestingly, the name given to the wild Australian horse, “Brumby” was named after James Brumby. He has a memorial in Christ Church graveyard, Longford, dated 1838.

The Shot Tower at Tarooma, built in 1870 is the only stone shot tower in the southern hemisphere.



Shot Tower, Tarooma

Tasmania is the home of the longest continuous newspaper in the nation, The Examiner (1842) and Andrew Bent published the first literary work in 1818. Evan Henry Thomas from Launceston was the first in Australia to publish a drama in 1835 and home to the nation’s

first novelist, Henry Savery, who wrote *The hermit in Van Diemen's Land* under a pseudonym in 1829 and *Quintus Servinton* in 1831, published anonymously. It was a Tasmanian, Edward Abbott who published the nation's first cook book, "*The English and Australian Cookery Book*" in 1864. The oldest book shop operating in Australia was Birchalls Launceston (1844) until it ceased in 2015.

The uncle of famous author, Anthony Trollope is buried in St Mary's Church grave-yard, Kempton. The Rev William Trollope was rector from 1852-1862. It is said his head is under the altar.



Rev William's tombstone, St Mary's Church Kempton

Tasmania has the oldest operational navigation canal at Egg Island Canal, Huon River. It consists of two main areas of low lying land in the Huon River that stretched a little over seven miles down the river from just below the township of Huonville. First built in 1858, a new one following the line of the old was constructed in 1883.

Launceston was the first city to open a Mall (1974) and was the first city to have an urban land use plan (1835) and was also the first city in the southern hemisphere to be illuminated by hydro power. It also elected the first female mayor of a major Australian city, Dorothy Edwards (1956). Mrs Isabella Mead was the first woman appointed as Director of an Australian museum when she became Director of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. Launceston also had the first underground sewage system in Australia. The Brindley Water Pipe Organ at the Albert Hall is the only working model in the southern hemisphere. It was built (circa) 1825 and came from Scotland.



Mrs Dorothy Edwards

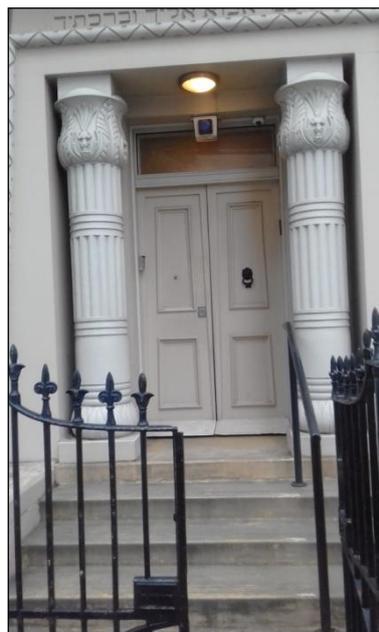
The formation of the Tasmanian Turf Club at Mowbray is Australia's oldest continuously running turf club. In 1891 the Launceston Art Society was founded the first art society in Australia. In 1849 the Launceston Chamber of Commerce was founded, the first city Chamber of Commerce in Australia. In 1984 Seasol was the first to commercialise liquid organic seaweed fertiliser in the country.

In Hobart, the earliest of libraries in Australia was the Wesleyan Library (19<sup>th</sup> September 1825) partly financed and who donated a number of books by Rev Benjamin Carvosso. Hobart was the first city to have parking meters in Australia in 1955. Regarding transport; Hobart was the only city in Australia to have double-decker trams and the first complete electrified tram system in the southern hemisphere (Sept 1893).



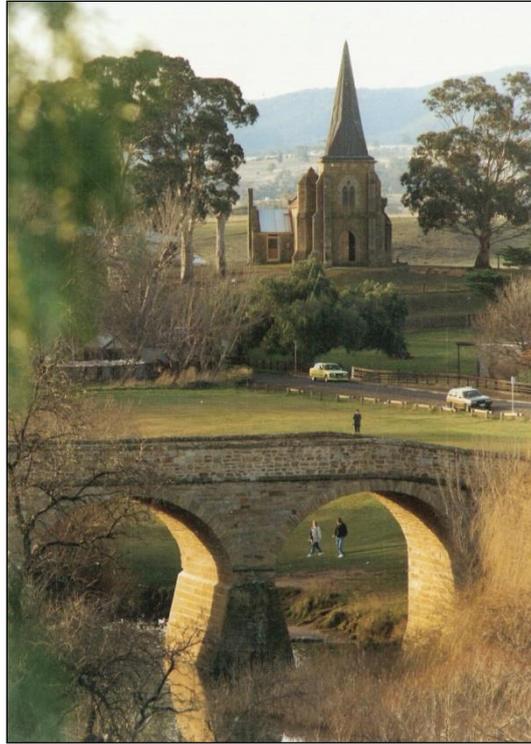
This plaque is to be seen at the car park Argyle Street, Hobart.

The oldest continuous Jewish synagogue exists in Hobart (1843) with Launceston having the second oldest (1846) and the oldest continuous Catholic Church in Australia is St John's Richmond (1835) and the old Wesleyan church in New Norfolk is possibly the oldest Methodist church in the country (1837). The oldest Seventh Day Adventist Church building is at Colinsvale. The church was built in 1889 and was originally known as the Bismarck Adventist Church. Once the oldest continuous Congregational Church in Australia was Hestercombe Chapel, Granton (1833) but closed some years ago and is now a private residence. The first Australian Christian-Parent controlled school opened up in Kingston (Calvin) in 1962 while the first Reformed Church (known as Dutch Reformed) in Australia was opened at Penguin on the State's north west coast in October 1957.



Entrance Jewish synagogue, Hobart

Tasmania for the Anglican faith Hobart is the oldest continuous Diocese of Australia. In 1822-1823 Samuel Marsden came into Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and consecrated much of the island. St David's Cathedral in Hobart is the only one in the world outside Wales.



St John Church, Richmond and bridge.

Near New Norfolk, the claimant to be the first white woman in Australia (Betty King) setting foot in Australia January 26<sup>th</sup> 1788) is buried at Back River just outside New Norfolk.



Reg placing flowers at Betty King's Memorial, Australia Day January 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Richmond Bridge is the oldest in Australia (1825) and the convict built Tunbridge Bridge spanning the Blackman River is the oldest single span bridge in Australia (1848)

The Red Bridge over the Elizabeth River, Campbell Town completed in 1838 is the oldest surviving brick bridge in Australia.



Red Bridge, Campbell Town

More on Methodism...when it was forbidden for women to preach, it is believed the first occasion in Australia for a woman to do so was at Kingston, then referred to as Brown's River. Harriet Pullen from Kent England had settled in Van Diemen's Land and had a desire to bring Christian influence to the convict colony. In the late 1830s she conducted services in her home with many attending, it is said from a curiosity to see a woman preach. By all accounts she was well received and her efforts were well rewarded with converts.<sup>2</sup>

In 1868 Tasmania became the first Australian colony to have a compulsory state education system to be administered by local school boards and the first to establish area schools and matriculation colleges. The Launceston Grammar School in Launceston and Hutchins<sup>3</sup> in the south, opened in 1846 becoming the oldest continuously functioning private school in Australia.

Some Tasmanians of note were Enid Lyons the first woman in Federal Parliament, composer Peter Sculthorpe, cricketers Max Walker and Ricky Ponting, wood-chopper David Foster, Mary Donaldson, Princess of Denmark and numerous Australian Rules footballers. Then of course there was Errol Flynn.

Of course there was Harold Charles Gatty (1903-1957), famous air navigator and adventurer. He was born at Campbell Town. He flew around the world in 1931 with Wiley Post in the record breaking time of eight days 15 hours and 51 minutes. There is a memorial to him at Campbell Town.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Nicole Starling, abstracted from her academic work.

<sup>3</sup> It was first situated at Ingle Hall, Macquarie Street, the building still stands.



Gatty (right) with Wiley Post

Defender Snail-Killer pellets were developed by Tasmanian Les Vaughan, after he discovered that a chemical called metaldehyde used by doctors to sterilise hypodermic needles also killed snails and slugs.

The Northern Tasmanian Permanent Building and Investment Society was established in 1858 and was the nation's first building society.

Sir Richard Dry from the north west was the first Australian-born to be knighted and we haven't really broken the 'ice' as yet (so to speak) not touching on our distinctions in the fields of sport, parliament, legal and many other areas. Certainly we should be proud of our achievements. And who can deny that Tasmania gave birth to Melbourne when John Batman and Faulkner founded that city in 1835.



Sir Richard Dry

Andrew Inglis Clark from Hobart has been dubbed "The Father of Federation" and is the instigator of the Hare-Clark system which is peculiar to Tasmania for voting for the Lower House introduced in 1909.



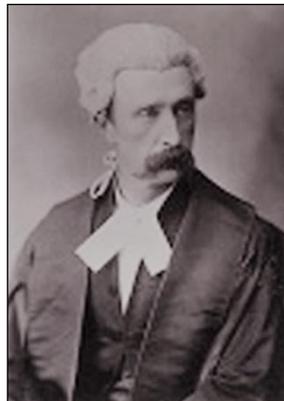
Andrew Inglis Clark.

Joseph Cocker of Barrington invented a potato digger which was patented to an American manufacturer and marketed successfully in the 1890s in the USA.

*Akurba* hats became a trade name in 1912. Its origins go back to Benjamin Dunkerley who arrived in Tasmania from England in 1874 to start his hat making business.

Tasmania was the first State to be declared free of hydatids in 1996, the work of Dr John Goldsmit and the first time an authentic Scottish tartan was produced in Australia was at Waverley Woollen Mills at Launceston.

Tasmania is the only State to have its own National Anthem penned by Frederick Packer, a Tasmanian composer in 1892.



Packer who sadly died in poverty in Parramatta NSW. Subject included in Reg Watson's book, "Parramatta – Tasmania Historic Connections".

The words of the  
**TASMANIAN ANTHEM**

1. All hail the land we love so well,  
Bright jewel of the sea,  
Fair home of England's stalwart sons,  
The brave, the bold and free !  
Where bright-eyed maidens gaily sing,  
And peace and plenty reign,  
And beauty smiles on ev'ry side,  
O'er mountain, vale and plain.

Tasmania! land of joy and peace,  
 whose sons are true and brave,  
 No scornful foe shall lay thee low,  
 While England rules the wave !

2. May love and joy around thee watch,  
 And God thy ways defend,  
 Thy children walk in honour's paths,  
 Until their journey's end.  
 May right prevail and might assist,  
 When foes assail thy cause,  
 And rulers true with wisdom frame  
 Thy people's ways and laws.  
 Tasmania! land of joy and peace,  
 whose sons are true and brave,  
 No scornful foe shall lay thee low,  
 While England rules the wave !

Ex Premier Will Hodgman, held the record for being the leader of the Opposition for the longest period ever (16 years) in Australia, if not in the world.

The Tasmanian Government was the first State Government to be on the internet. (1996).

The Robson Rotation whereby through rotation each candidate gets a share of the position at the top of a particular column on the ballot paper is a unique Tasmanian feature. Introduced by Neil Robson MHA, it was the brain child of Dr George Howatt.

The Rev George Carruthers has been Australian's only Social Credit Parliamentarian. He was elected to the Tasmanian Parliament in 1935 while Dr. Reginald 'Spot' Turnbull of Tasmania was the first Independent Senator elected to Federal Parliament in 1962.

James Goodall Francis although born in London lived at Campbell Town Tasmania from 1840 leaving for Victoria in 1853. He eventually became Premier of that colony from 1872-1874.

When Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, opened the Tasmanian Parliament February 22 1954 it was the first overseas parliament opened by her and it was the first in Australia to be opened by a reigning monarch.

World War Two General, Marshall Bernard Montgomery lived in Tasmania from 1889-1901. He was the son of the Bishop of Tasmania, Henry Hutchinson Montgomery. Bernard's sister, Sibyl (1882-1889) died of acute peritonitis 18<sup>th</sup> November 1889 and was buried in the Sandy Bay cemetery (Mercury 19 Nov 1889). According to The Mercury (23<sup>rd</sup> June 1947) Montgomery conceived the idea of joining the army while watching Tasmanian troops marching through Hobart Streets to board ship for the Boer War front in South Africa.

Lieutenant Ken Hudspeth was a Tasmanian who was part of the mini-submarine attack on the Germany Battleship the *Tirpitz* in Norway during WWII and he was also in charge of mini submarine X.20 during the Normandy invasion, June 6 1944.



Lieutenant Ken Hudspeth third from left standing  
(from book *Above the Waves*)

Waxed paper for storage of apples for export was a Tasmanian innovation. The Wright family of Glenorchy in competition with the Shoobridge family had to find a way to export their apples to England without half of them arriving rotten. Wrapping each apple individually proved to be successful as wax paper is waterproof.

Interestingly, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip, had visited Tasmania twice before 1954 when he did so with his wife, Queen Elizabeth II. He came to our shore pre WWII and during WWII while serving with the Royal Navy in the Pacific. On both occasions he stopped at *Connorville* at Cressy, the home of the O'Connors.

A way of preserving “reduced fat cream” was undoubtedly invented by a Tasmanian, Miss I.M. Lowther. The development was eventually sold by Nestles in a tin. The method was successful in keeping cream fresh without preservatives for as long as six months. Miss Lowther worked as a tester and grader at a Devonport butter factory. Her concept was patented.<sup>4</sup>

Finally on not a Tasmanian ‘first’ but a Tasmanian ‘last’; the last man to be gibbeted in English history was that of John McKey, 5<sup>th</sup> May 1837. His body was on display just north of Perth, about 450 yards off the main road.

\* See the author’s work, “*Strange Happenings over the Skies of Tasmania and Bass Strait*” (State Library of Tasmania).

- Acknowledge the invaluable help of Sir Guy Green.

<sup>4</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article24906931>



Author: Reg. A. Watson

Reg. A. Watson is a 6<sup>h</sup> generation Tasmania, calling himself a “Tasmanian Australian”. He is an established writer of 52 years experience. He hopes a website such as this will heighten Tasmanians pride.

**[www.regwatson.com](http://www.regwatson.com)**